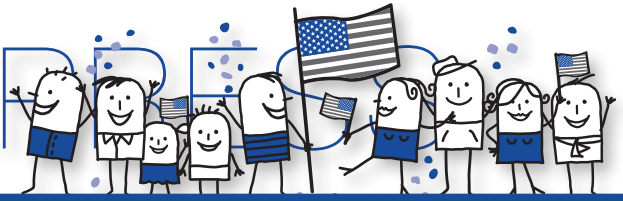




HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY! Fly the American flag in celebration of our independence this July. Do you know what the colors represent? Red stands for hardiness and valor. White symbolizes purity and innocence. Blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

GAZEBOEXPRESS



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JULY 2015



THEN



NOW

Before the town solved their drainage woes, flood waters swallowed the Ward yard. More photos at highland.in.gov.

HIGH & DRY No more flooded basements despite torrential downpours

Jeff Ward used to cringe when weather forecasters called for more than a passing sprinkle.

The Hess Drive resident would make sure his industrial-strength pump was prepared to go the distance – running for days to remove hundreds of thousands of gallons of storm-water runoff that routinely turned his backyard into a pond.

That isn't the case anymore.

"It took a while to come up with a solution but in the end, my neighbors and I chipped in \$325 apiece and the town ran a series of additional lines to the storm drain that solved the problem," Ward said. "It was a frustrating situation but the solution has been a good one. We've had five straight years without any problems."

During their tenure, the Sanitary Commissioners have tackled sewer issues both large and small.

Public Works Director John Bach said it comes down to taking as much rainwater as possible out of the sanitary system and creating fail-safes to

collect storm runoff until heavy rains end and the system can handle the additional flow.

For the Sanitary Board, resolving long-standing problems has been incremental. From the tried-and-true practice of systematically disconnecting sump pumps from the sanitary sewers to finding unique remedies, such as the one on Hess Drive, Council President Mark Herak said the hard work is paying off.

"This group spends countless hours solving problems," said Herak, council liaison to the board. "We had double the amount of water we normally get in May and June (13.95 inches) and we've had no complaints of flooded streets or basements. What we're doing is working." 🐦

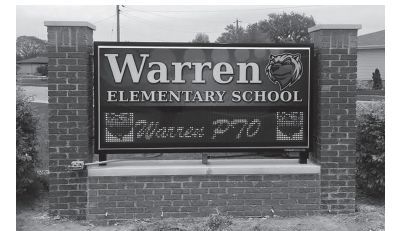
KEEPING HIGHLAND DRY: Residents are no longer required to carry premium flood insurance because of their proximity to the Little Calumet River since FEMA removed 1,600 homes and businesses from A-2 flood designation in 2011. Learn more at highland.in.gov/HighlandSanitaryDistrict.

SPIFFY NEW DIGITAL SIGN

Warren Elementary has a cool, new communication tool – a digital sign – compliments of the Parent Teacher Organization and a host of volunteers who built the masonry foundation.

A big thank you to the School Town of Highland buildings and grounds crews, who completed the installation at the corner of 5th and 100th streets.

As a neighborhood school, many Warren families will be informed about upcoming events – such as the start of school Aug. 12 – when they drive, walk or ride bikes past the school.



Workers installed Warren Elementary's new digital marquee in May. [Warren PTO photo]



... TOWN TICKER ...

Highland is the latest community to join [The Times digital crime maps](http://TheTimesdigitalcrimereport). Visit nwi.com/regionalcrimereport for the latest dates, times and places for crime in Highland. ... **Lance Ryscamp** returns to Highland Town Hall as the administrative assistant to Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro. ... Congratulations to **Highland High grad Jordan Minch**, who is striking out batter's from the pitcher's mound at the Cubs' Class A affiliate in South Bend.

CAR CRUISE WILL ROLL INTO TOWN FOR FALL FESTIVAL

Highland Main Street and the Council of Community Events are teaming up to host an autumn-inspired, event showcasing notable cars, best-of-the-region barbecue, entertainment and craft beverages. Inspiration struck when Main Street organizers met in June to reschedule the Car Cruise, which was rained out two days in a row. The best creative minds in both groups came together to talk about the possibility of a collaboration that would amplify

the cruise and provide an added downtown entertainment venue in October.

"The event we are planning will provide a little something for everybody," Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said. "We're holding it in the fall when the region typically has more sunny, dry days."

Kelly Bridges, vice president of the Council of Community Events, said the group has been busy buttoning up details to secure town council approval. 🐦

CALLING ALL CAR BUFFS!

If you have a classic car or antique hot rod, join us in the fall for the Highland Main Street Car Cruise in downtown Highland. Cars may be registered in advance or on-site the day of the single-day event.

WHEN: 2 to 10 p.m. Saturday, **OCT. 3**
WHERE: Downtown Highland
INFO: Call Car Cruise Chairman Mario DeGeorge at (708) 250-1388.

OUTDOOR STREET MARKET

Support local businesses and enjoy the warm weather at the street market featuring local produce and artisanal goods. **ENTERTAINMENT:** July 11:

Dennis, Andrew, & Michelle, July 18: Joshua McCormack, July 25: Robbing Selsdon, August 1: Haley LeRand.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through **OCT. 17.** Off **JULY 4.**

WHERE: Main Square Park

VENDOR FEES: \$21.40 weekly (\$5.35 for electric), \$85.60 for 8 weeks (\$16.05 for electric). Tables, chairs and cords are not provided.

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 or visit us online at highlandparks.org.

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about the latest trends in crime at this month's crime watch meeting.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **JULY 8**

WHERE: Highland Library

RESERVATIONS: Call Officer Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN - vice president
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2

MARK HERAK - president
mherak@highland.in.gov
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WARD 5

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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
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\$2.36 MILLION WATER LINE PROJECT TO BEGIN AFTER HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Plans to begin the Kennedy Avenue water line project in May, which were scrapped because of the July 3 Twilight Parade, have been revised to allow substantial completion yet this year.

Public Works Director John Bach said the town and primary contractor Grimmer Construction came back to the table and hammered out a compromise that involves bringing more crews to the site to consolidate the project's timeframe from seven months to five.

Kennedy Avenue will be reduced to one lane in each direction for the duration. Lane restrictions are scheduled to begin immediately after the Independence Day holiday weekend and end in mid-November.

"The Twilight Parade is a long-held tradition for thousands of people in Highland and throughout the region," Bach said. "We knew the parade would fall right in the middle of the construction and tried as hard as we could to find a way to do the work without disrupting that major event."

GETTING AROUND TOWN ...

Finding alternatives to Kennedy Avenue travel could save time — and headaches.

- ✓ North/South alternates include Cline Avenue and Indianapolis Boulevard.
- ✓ For in-town trips, motorists should consider Grace Street and Kleinman Road.

The town is grateful to Grimmer for juggling the company's work schedules out of consideration for the parade, he said.

"Grimmer has been a great company to work with," Bach said. "They are basically doubling the number of work crews at the Highland construction site to make this happen."

What that means are lane closures from Highway Avenue to 45th Street while work crews reline and upgrade water pipes. Work on the \$2.36 million project will entail boring into the soil to reach existing lines along with pavement cuts and the removal of one very large tree. 🌳

CONTRACTORS WEIGH IN ON THEATRE ROOF

The timeline to begin interior construction on the Town Theatre is on hold until the Redevelopment Commission is able to make a decision on the status of the vintage roof.

Following an in-depth inspection in May and June, commission members learned that two of the trusses will need to be fortified and the other two have 50 percent useful life remaining.

That news prompted commission members to obtain estimates for repairing or replacing the roof structure. Also under consideration is the long-term sustainability of a repaired roof.

Between now and August several contractors will be on site to offer their guidance.

"The news on the roof was disappointing, but not altogether unexpected," Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said.

"We couldn't make decisions until we could get a professional to take a closer look. That couldn't happen until we took the ceiling down."

The Redevelopment Commission has a contract with the owner of the two storefronts north of

MEMBERSHIP GROWING ...

Since the end of June, more than 400 individuals, families and businesses have become members, raising more than \$17,000 for the Town Theatre.

MEMBERSHIP	#	AMOUNT
Family	207	\$8,280
Small Business	16	\$1,200
Individual	58	\$1,450
Senior/Student	159	\$3,180
Large donors	2	\$1,500
Additional donations		\$1,535
TOTAL	442	\$17,145

WANT BECOME A MEMBER? Download a Town Theatre membership form online at www.highland.in.gov/towntheatre.

the theatre, which will allow accessibility to those with physical challenges. An August closing is scheduled. 🌳



GET YOUR GROOVE ON ...

Kick up your heels. Lace up the sneakers. Soar on the swings. July is National Park and Recreation month — 31 days dedicated to summer and tapping into the town's bounty of recreational space and programs.

Highland Parks and Recreation is celebrating 68 years of building and maintaining a network of parks that stretch from Homestead Park south to the Meadows and Lakeside.

Under the watchful eye of Parks Superintendent Alex Brown, the park department manages 26 parks and designated open spaces that together supply 230 acres of breathing room.

INFO: Highlandparks.org and nrpa.org/July.

SHOW US YOUR SPIRIT!

We're challenging you to get gnarly and rock Park and Recreation Month — 80s-style. Maybe you'll host a totally tubular aerobics dance party (leg warmers and headbands are a must!) or an 80s movie night series — whatever you choose, have fun with it!

Upload your pics to the Highland Parks & Recreation Facebook page or email Director Dave Byers at dbyers@highlandparks.org.

ALL-CLASS REUNION

The Highland High School All-Class Reunion has grown to an annual bash that boasts 600 to 800 people. The event features music by Highland alumni Dylynder and DJ Ron Sutton and is supported by dozens of local business owners, who donate food, cash and raffle items. Their generosity has helped organizers keep the ticket price at \$10 — and provide an ample surplus, which is donated each year to Highland High.

WHEN: 7 p.m. to midnight **AUGUST 1**

WHERE: American Legion Hall, located at Ridge Road and Second Street.

INFO: Email Ksta689067@aol.com.

HHS 40TH REUNION

The Highland High School Class of 1975 will celebrate its 40th class reunion.

WHEN: 7 p.m. **JULY 31**

WHERE: Rodney's Sports Bar, Highland

INFO: Tickets are \$25 in advance. Search "HHS Class of 75" on FaceBook or call Mark Mitcheltree at (219) 776-2110 for details.

ROTARY CORN ROAST

Join us for all the corn you care to eat. The roast includes all the corn you can eat, two hot dogs or one sausage, sauerkraut, chips, drink and dessert. Proceeds benefits Highland scholarships as well as the town's park, fire and police departments.

WHEN: 4 to 7:30 p.m. **AUGUST 7**

WHERE: Main Square Park

FEE: \$6 in advance at Cakes By Karen, Lincoln Center and the chamber office; \$8 after August 6. Kids under 6 eat free.

INFO: Call (219) 923-3666.

OLG RUMMAGE SALE

Hunt for gently-used gems at the summer rummage sale, hosted by the Our Lady of Grace Altar & Rosary Sodality. Clothes are \$2 a bag on Friday!

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **JULY 8 and 9**

and from 9 a.m. to noon **JULY 10**

WHERE: School cafeteria (north entrance)

INFO: Call (219) 924-7688.

COMMUNITY FULL OF FANTASTIC IDEAS FOR ARTS & CULTURAL DISTRICT

Responses to the Arts and Cultural survey have been pouring into the Redevelopment Commission and Highland Main Street.

"We started receiving stacks of responses as soon as the Gazebo Express arrived in mailboxes," Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said. "The surveys tell us what people want in and around downtown and will help us create a blueprint to make it happen."

Petro's office cataloged more than 900 responses.

"Because residents were so thoughtful in their answers, we know the kind of businesses they want and will likely frequent," Petro said.

Although it will take a few months to analyze data, early responses show residents are overwhelmingly in favor of the arts and cultural district along with businesses — such as coffee shops, one-of-a-kind stores, restaurants, and activities that add value to a theatre district.

TAKE THE SURVEY ...

If you have not yet responded to the Arts and Cultural survey in the June water bill, there is still time to participate in the discussion about the future of downtown Highland.

INFO: Download the survey online at www.highland.in.gov.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Join Highland Parks & Recreation for an evening in the park to watch "Paddington" on the big screen. The concession stand will sell popcorn and fountain drinks. Bring a blanket or comfortable lawn chair. If it rains, the movie will be shown indoors at the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse.

WHEN: Dusk (around 8:30 p.m.) Friday, **JULY 10**
WHERE: Main Square Park
INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org

CHAMBER GOLF OUTING

Sign up to tee-off at the 2015 golf outing sponsored by the Highland/Griffith Chamber of Commerce.

WHEN: 11 a.m. registration and lunch, noon shotgun start, Friday **JULY 17**
WHERE: Wicker Park Golf Course
FEE: \$100 per person includes lunch, golf, cart, drink tickets, golf balls and \$25 cash prize at every hole.
RESERVATIONS: Call (219) 923-3666 or download a form at highlandchamber.com.

KIWANIS CHICKEN DINNER

Join the Highland Kiwanis for a chicken dinner at Main Square Park. Eat at the park or take home. Tickets are \$9 and include half a roasted chicken, Nelson's tasty Pit-Tatoes and slaw.

WHEN: 5 to 6:30 p.m. **JULY 31**
WHERE: Main Square Park
TICKETS: Purchase tickets by **JULY 24** at First Midwest Bank or Lincoln Center.
INFO: Call Jeannine at (219) 923-2360.

CO-REC VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Teams play a 10-week season, two matches each night, consisting of a total of 6 games per week. There is a single-elimination tournament on the final night. Rally scoring is used. Choose the competitive or recreational skill division. Players must be 18+ and out of high school.

WHEN: 6-10 p.m. Thursdays, **JULY 23 - SEPT. 24**
WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
TEAM FEE: \$300
REGISTRATION: Deadline **JULY 12**
INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

SOUNDS OF SUMMER

Sultry skies and oh-so-warm evening temperatures lend themselves to spending time outdoors. Grab a comfy lawn chair and your favorite bug spray and head to Main Square for Highland Park's summer concert series.

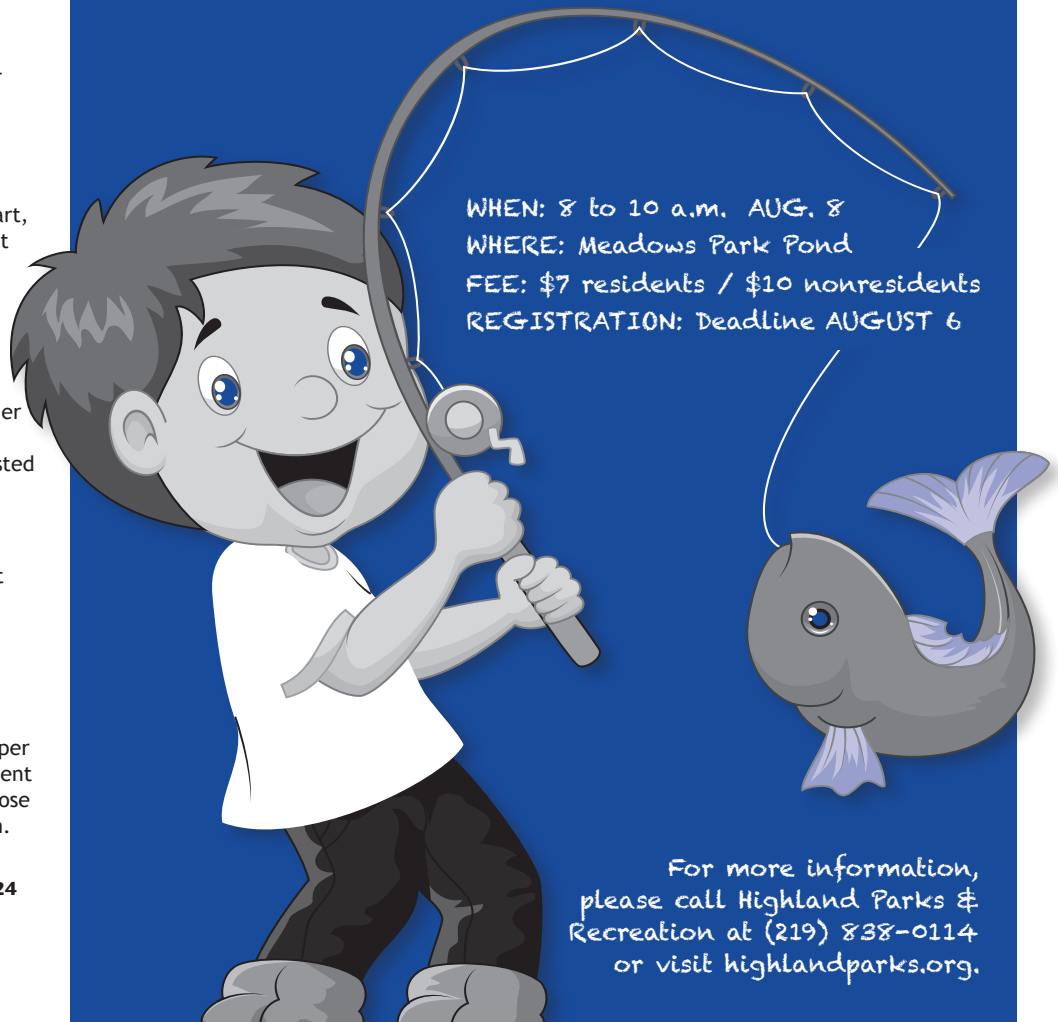
JULY 9: Dan Mateja & the IPA Tribute Band
- legendary polka music

JULY 16: Fast Eddie & The Corvettes - 50s-70s

WHEN: 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays
WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo
NOTE: In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be held in the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse. Please bring your own chair
INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

KIDS FISHING CONTEST

Boys and girls are invited to enjoy a morning of fishing activities. Contestants will participate in a catch-and-release fishing tournament. Bring your own pole, hooks, lures and bobbers. Bait will be provided.



WHEN: 8 to 10 a.m. **AUG. 8**
WHERE: Meadows Park Pond
FEE: \$7 residents / \$10 nonresidents
REGISTRATION: Deadline **AUGUST 6**

For more information, please call Highland Parks & Recreation at (219) 838-0114 or visit highlandparks.org.

CHICAGO BULLS SUMMER CAMP

Let the Chicago Bulls teach you how to play like a champion! Improve every aspect of your basketball game including ball handling, shooting, passing, rebounding, footwork, individual moves and team concepts.

WHEN: **JULY 27 - 31**
AGES 6-8: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
AGES 9-12: 1 to 4 p.m.
WHERE: Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse
FEE: \$215 per player
REGISTER: Register at Lincoln Community Center or online at www.bullssoxacademy.com.
INFO: Call (630) PLAYBAL.

THE BIG BAD MUSICAL™

The Highland Parks & Recreation Department's Performing Arts Group presents "The Big Bad Musical" — a howling courtroom comedy adapted from the book by best-selling author Alec Strum. Music and lyrics by Bill Francosur. Bring a comfy lawn chair or blanket and sit back and enjoy the show. The concession stand will be open and programs are \$2. All proceeds help offset the cost of production.

WHEN: 8 p.m. **JULY 30, 31** and **AUG. 1, 6, 7, 8**
WHERE: Main Square Gazebo
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.